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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/855,531	05/16/2001	Isamu Yamane	040405/0338	9773

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FOLEY AND LARDNER
SUITE 500
3000 K STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20007

EXAMINER

QUINONES, ISMAEL C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2686

DATE MAILED: 01/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/855,531

Applicant(s)

YAMANE, ISAMU

Examiner

Ismael Quiñones

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 16, 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3 and 4 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. Both information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on January 24, 2002; and November 25, 2002 are being considered by the examiner and made of record in the application file.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Page 3, Paragraph 59, should refer to Fig.2 at the beginning of the paragraph. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. **Claims 1-19** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Smith et al.
(U.S. Pat. No. 6,198,931)

Regarding **claim 1**, Smith et al. disclose a mobile communication system which is comprised of a mobile terminal, a switchboard for controlling the connection of said mobile terminal and a plurality of base stations for relaying a radio signal with said mobile terminal to said switchboard (A controller, *item 112* such as a switchboard for means of controlling the communication links between the portable subscriber unit and the base stations; *col. 2, lines 37-47; Fig. 1*), wherein said switchboard comprising: average moving speed calculation unit which calculates a moving speed of said mobile terminal from the position information of said mobile terminal which is sent from said mobile terminal (The controller/switchboard cooperates with the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal to compute the speed at which the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal is moving, the calculation is performed by the processing system whose task is to process control transmittal/receiving messages; and subsequently recording said calculation in a memory space provided by said controller/switchboard; *col. 4, lines 23-27; col. 5, lines 19-21; col. 6, lines 56-59; Fig. 3, item 342; Fig. 6, Steps 602-606*); and incoming call blocking unit which blocks incoming calls to said mobile terminal when the moving speed of said mobile terminal calculated by said moving speed calculation unit exceeds a predetermined threshold (Negating communication means as within the controller/switchboard itself when the speed of the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal exceeds a predetermined threshold, otherwise routing said communications to the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal; *col. 6, lines 56-61; col. 7, lines 6-8; col. 8, lines 10-19; Fig. 6, Step diagram*).

Regarding **claim 2**, and as applied to claim 1, Smith et al. disclose the aforementioned mobile communication system, wherein said mobile terminal sends the position information of said mobile terminal which said mobile terminal has received on the basis of a GPS signal from a global positioning system satellite to said switchboard periodically (A GPS receiver/*item 234* and a conventional clock/*item 207* for time keeping requirements such as periodic inbound/outbound messages, both coupled to the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal processing system/*item 206* for means of determining the location of said subscriber/terminal through well-known techniques, subsequently sending such information pertaining location to the controller, and further indicating the location at which said subscriber/terminal is positioned; *col. 4, lines 27-32; col. 5, lines 36-42; Fig. 4, steps 402-204; Fig. 2, items 234 and 207*).

Regarding **claim 3**, and as applied to claim 1, Smith et al. disclose the aforementioned mobile communication system, wherein said mobile terminal includes position information transmission unit which send the position information of said mobile terminal to said switchboard through said base stations periodically (A location information processing program/ *item 226* placed in the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal for programming the processing system to process location through well-known techniques in collaboration with the controller; *col. 4, lines 10-23*), and said switchboard includes storage unit which stores the present and previous position information from said mobile terminal (A location context database for means of storing a plurality of locations such as current and previous location context; *col. 5, lines 14-17*).

Regarding **claim 4**, and as applied to claim 1, Smith et al. disclose the aforementioned mobile communication system, wherein said mobile terminal comprises position information obtaining unit which obtains position information of said mobile terminal periodically according to a GPS signal from a global positioning system satellite, and position information transmission unit which sends the position information of said mobile terminal to said switchboard through said base stations periodically (A GPS receiver/*item 234* and a conventional clock/*item 207* for time keeping requirements such as periodic inbound/outbound messages, both coupled to the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal processing system/*item 206* for means of determining the location of said subscriber/terminal through well-known techniques, subsequently sending such information pertaining location to the controller, and further indicating the location at which said subscriber/terminal is positioned; *col. 4, lines 27-32; col. 5, lines 36-42; Fig. 4, steps 402-204; Fig. 2, items 234 and 207*), said switchboard comprises storage unit which stores the present and previous position information from said mobile terminal (A location context database for means of storing a plurality of locations such as current and previous location context; *col. 5, lines 14-17*).

Regarding **claim 5**, and as applied to claim 1, Smith et al. disclose the aforementioned mobile communication system, wherein said mobile terminal comprises registration request transmission unit which sends a registration request of the radio zones where said mobile terminal is present now to said switchboard when said mobile terminal is moving among the radio zones of said base stations (RF signals transmitted by the portable subscriber unit to the base stations comprise responses that include unscheduled

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messages, such as registration requests; *col. 3, lines 7-12*), and said mobile terminal sends the position information for a predetermined period when the position registration request is sent by said position registration request transmission unit (A request typing program for programming the processing system to send an inbound request such as a RF signal transmitted by the portable subscriber unit to the base stations that comprise responses such as registration requests, wherein said request typing program resides within the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal memory; *col. 4, lines 14-17; col. 6, lines 18-28; Fig. 5 steps 504 thru 510*).

Regarding **claim 6**, and as applied to claim 1, Smith et al. disclose the aforementioned mobile communication system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said mobile terminal comprises position information obtaining unit which obtains position information of said mobile terminal periodically according to a GPS signal from a global positioning system satellite, position information transmission unit which sends the position information of said mobile terminal to said switchboard through said base stations (A GPS receiver/*item 234* and a conventional clock/*item 207* for time keeping requirements such as periodic inbound/outbound messages, both coupled to the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal processing system/*item 206* for means of determining the location of said subscriber/terminal through well-known techniques, subsequently sending such information pertaining location to the controller, and further indicating the location at which said subscriber/terminal is positioned; *col. 4, lines 27-32; col. 5, lines 36-42; Fig. 4, steps 402-204; Fig. 2, items 234 and 207*), and registration request transmission unit which sends a registration request of the radio zones where said mobile

terminal is present now to said switchboard when said mobile terminal moves among the radio zones of said base stations (RF signals transmitted by the portable subscriber unit to the base stations comprise responses that include unscheduled messages, such as registration requests; *col. 3, lines 7-12*), and sends the position information for a predetermined period when the registration request is sent by said registration request transmission unit (A request typing program for programming the processing system to send an inbound request such as a RF signal transmitted by the portable subscriber unit to the base stations that comprise responses such as registration requests, wherein said request typing program resides within the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal memory; *col. 4, lines 14-17; col. 6, lines 18-28; Fig. 5 steps 504 thru 510*).

Regarding **claim 7**, Smith et al. disclose an incoming call blocking method for a mobile communication system which is comprised of a mobile terminal, a switchboard for controlling the connection of said mobile terminal and a plurality of base stations which relay a radio signal with said mobile terminal to said switchboard (A controller, *item 112* such as a switchboard for means of controlling the communication links between the portable subscriber unit and the base stations; *col. 2, lines 37-47; Fig. 1*), comprising the following steps of: obtaining position information of said mobile terminal (determining location/position at which the portable subscriber unit is positioned; *col. 8, lines 3-5*); calculating a moving speed of said mobile terminal from the determined position information of said mobile terminal (computing portable subscriber unit moving speed once location is determined; *col. 8, lines 10-17*); and blocking incoming calls to said mobile terminal when the calculated moving speed of said mobile terminal exceeds a

predetermined threshold (Negating communication means when the speed of the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal exceeds a predetermined threshold, otherwise routing said communications to the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal; *col. 6, lines 56-61; col. 7, lines 6-8; col. 8, lines 10-19; Fig. 6, Step diagram*).

Regarding **claim 8**, and as applied to claim 7, Smith et al. disclose the aforementioned incoming call blocking method for a mobile communication system, wherein position information of said mobile terminal is obtained according to a GPS signal from said global positioning system satellite, and the obtained position information of said mobile terminal is sent to said switchboard periodically (A GPS receiver/*item 234* and a conventional clock/*item 207* for time keeping requirements such as periodic inbound/outbound messages, both coupled to the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal processing system/*item 206* for means of determining the location of said subscriber/terminal through well-known techniques, subsequently sending such information pertaining location to the controller, and further indicating the location at which said subscriber/terminal is positioned; *col. 4, lines 27-32; col. 5, lines 36-42; Fig. 4, steps 402-204; Fig. 2, items 234 and 207*).

Regarding **claim 9**, and as applied to claim 7, Smith et al. disclose the aforementioned incoming call blocking method for a mobile communication system, wherein said mobile terminal obtains a position of said mobile terminal periodically and sends the obtained position information of said mobile terminal to said switchboard (A location information processing program/ *item 226* placed in the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal for programming the processing system to process location through

well-known techniques in collaboration with the controller; *col. 4, lines 10-23*), said switchboard stores the position information from said mobile terminal (A location context database for means of storing a plurality of locations; *col. 5, lines 14-17*), and a moving speed of said mobile terminal is calculated from the stored position information of said mobile terminal (computing portable subscriber unit moving speed once location is determined; *col. 8, lines 10-17*).

Regarding **claim 10**, and as applied to claim 7, Smith et al. disclose the aforementioned incoming call blocking method for a mobile communication system, wherein said mobile terminal sends a registration request of the radio zones where said mobile terminal is present now to said base stations when said mobile terminal is moving among the radio zones of said base stations (RF signals transmitted by the portable subscriber unit to the base stations comprise responses that include unscheduled messages, such as registration requests; *col. 3, lines 7-12*), and said mobile terminal sends the position information for a predetermined period when said mobile terminal sends the registration request (A request typing program for programming the processing system to send an inbound request such as a RF signal transmitted by the portable subscriber unit to the base stations that comprise responses such as registration requests, wherein said request typing program resides within the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal memory; *col. 4, lines 14-17; col. 6, lines 18-28; Fig. 5 steps 504 thru 510*).

Regarding **claim 11**, Smith et al. disclose a switchboard of a mobile communication system which is comprised of a mobile terminal, a switchboard for controlling the connection of said mobile terminal and a plurality of base stations for

relaying a radio signal with said mobile terminal to said switchboard (A controller, *item 112* such as a switchboard for means of controlling the communication links between the portable subscriber unit and the base stations; *col. 2, lines 37-47; Fig. 1*), comprising: average moving speed calculation unit which calculates a moving speed of said mobile terminal from position information of said mobile terminal which is sent from said mobile terminal (The controller/switchboard cooperates with the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal to compute the speed at which the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal is moving, the calculation is performed by the processing system whose task is to process control transmittal/receiving messages; and subsequently recording said calculation in a memory space provided by said controller/switchboard; *col. 4, lines 23-27; col. 5, lines 19-21; col. 6, lines 56-59; Fig. 3, item 342; Fig. 6, Steps 602-606*); and incoming call blocking unit which blocks incoming calls to said mobile terminal when a moving speed of said mobile terminal calculated by said moving speed calculation unit exceeds a predetermined threshold (Negating communication means as within the controller/switchboard itself when the speed of the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal exceeds a predetermined threshold, otherwise routing said communications to the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal; *col. 6, lines 56-61; col. 7, lines 6-8; col. 8, lines 10-19; Fig. 6, Step diagram*).

Regarding **claim 12**, and as applied to claim 11, Smith et al. disclose the aforementioned switchboard of a mobile communication system, which periodically receives the position information of said mobile terminal obtained according to a GPS signal from the global positioning system satellite (A GPS receiver/*item 234* and a

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conventional clock/*item 207* for time keeping requirements such as periodic inbound/outbound messages, both coupled to the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal processing system/*item 206* or as a relative preferred embodiment both residing in the controller; for means of determining the location of said subscriber/terminal through well-known techniques, subsequently sending such information pertaining location to the controller, and further indicating the location at which said subscriber/terminal is positioned; *col. 4, lines 27-32; col. 5, lines 36-42; Fig. 4, steps 402-204; Fig. 2, items 234 and 207; Figure 3, items 334 and 336*) and calculates a moving speed of said mobile terminal every time the position information is received (The controller/switchboard cooperates with the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal to compute the speed at which the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal is moving, the calculation is performed by the processing system whose task is to process control transmittal/receiving messages; and subsequently recording said calculation in a memory space provided by said controller/switchboard; *col. 4, lines 23-27; col. 5, lines 19-21; col. 6, lines 56-59; Fig. 3, item 342; Fig. 6, Steps 602-606*).

Regarding **claim 13**, and as applied to claim 11, Smith et al. disclose the aforementioned switchboard of a mobile communication system, further comprising storage unit which stores the present and previous position information from said mobile terminal (A location context database for means of storing a plurality of locations such as current and previous location context; *col. 5, lines 14-17*).

Regarding **claim 14**, Smith et al. disclose a mobile communication system which is comprised of a mobile terminal, a switchboard for controlling the connection of said

mobile terminal and a plurality of base stations for relaying a radio signal with said mobile terminal to said switchboard (A controller, *item 112* such as a switchboard for means of controlling the communication links between the portable subscriber unit and the base stations; *col. 2, lines 37-47; Fig. 1*), wherein said switchboard comprising: average moving speed calculation means for calculating a moving speed of said mobile terminal from the position information of said mobile terminal which is sent from said mobile terminal (The controller/switchboard cooperates with the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal to compute the speed at which the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal is moving, the calculation is performed by the processing system whose task is to process control transmittal/receiving messages; and subsequently recording said calculation in a memory space provided by said controller/switchboard; *col. 4, lines 23-27; col. 5, lines 19-21; col. 6, lines 56-59; Fig. 3, item 342; Fig. 6, Steps 602-606*); and incoming call blocking means for blocking incoming calls to said mobile terminal when the moving speed of said mobile terminal calculated by said moving speed calculation means exceeds a predetermined threshold (Negating communication means as within the controller/switchboard itself when the speed of the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal exceeds a predetermined threshold, otherwise routing said communications to the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal; *col. 6, lines 56-61; col. 7, lines 6-8; col. 8, lines 10-19; Fig. 6, Step diagram*).

Regarding **claim 15**, and as applied to claim 14, Smith et al. disclose the aforementioned mobile communication system, wherein said mobile terminal sends the position information of said mobile terminal which said mobile terminal has received on

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the basis of a GPS signal from a global positioning system satellite to said switchboard periodically (A GPS receiver/*item 234* and a conventional clock/*item 207* for time keeping requirements such as periodic inbound/outbound messages, both coupled to the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal processing system/*item 206* for means of determining the location of said subscriber/terminal through well-known techniques, subsequently sending such information pertaining location to the controller, and further indicating the location at which said subscriber/terminal is positioned; *col. 4, lines 27-32; col. 5, lines 36-42; Fig. 4, steps 402-204; Fig. 2, items 234 and 207*).

Regarding **claim 16**, and as applied to claim 14, Smith et al. disclose the aforementioned mobile communication system, wherein said mobile terminal includes position information transmission means for sending the position information of said mobile terminal to said switchboard through said base stations periodically (A GPS receiver/*item 234* and a conventional clock/*item 207* for time keeping requirements such as periodic inbound/outbound messages, both coupled to the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal processing system/*item 206* for means of determining the location of said subscriber/terminal through well-known techniques, subsequently sending such information pertaining location to the controller, and further indicating the location at which said subscriber/terminal is positioned; *col. 4, lines 27-32; col. 5, lines 36-42; Fig. 4, steps 402-204; Fig. 2, items 234 and 207*), and said switchboard includes storage means for storing the present and previous position information from said mobile terminal (A location context database for means of storing a plurality of locations such as current and previous location context; *col. 5, lines 14-17*).

Regarding **claim 17**, and as applied to claim 14, Smith et al. disclose the aforementioned mobile communication system, wherein said mobile terminal comprises position information obtaining means for obtaining position information of said mobile terminal periodically according to a GPS signal from a global positioning system satellite, and position information transmission means for sending the position information of said mobile terminal to said switchboard through said base stations periodically (A GPS receiver/*item 234* and a conventional clock/*item 207* for time keeping requirements such as periodic inbound/outbound messages, both coupled to the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal processing system/*item 206* for means of determining the location of said subscriber/terminal through well-known techniques, subsequently sending such information pertaining location to the controller, and further indicating the location at which said subscriber/terminal is positioned; *col. 4, lines 27-32; col. 5, lines 36-42; Fig. 4, steps 402-204; Fig. 2, items 234 and 207*), said switchboard comprises storage means for storing the present and previous position information from said mobile terminal (A location context database for means of storing a plurality of locations such as current and previous location context; *col. 5, lines 14-17*).

Regarding **claim 18**, and as applied to claim 14, Smith et al. disclose the aforementioned mobile communication system, wherein said mobile terminal comprises registration request transmission means for sending a registration request of the radio zones where said mobile terminal is present now to said switchboard when said mobile terminal is moving among the radio zones of said base stations (RF signals transmitted by the portable subscriber unit to the base stations comprise responses that include

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unscheduled messages, such as registration requests; *col. 3, lines 7-12*), and said mobile terminal sends the position information for a predetermined period when the position registration request is sent by said position registration request transmission means (A request typing program for programming the processing system to send an inbound request such as a RF signal transmitted by the portable subscriber unit to the base stations that comprise responses such as registration requests, wherein said request typing program resides within the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal memory; *col. 4, lines 14-17; col. 6, lines 18-28; Fig. 5 steps 504 thru 510*).

Regarding **claim 19**, and as applied to claim 14, Smith et al. disclose the aforementioned mobile communication system, wherein said mobile terminal comprises position information obtaining means for obtaining position information of said mobile terminal periodically according to a GPS signal from a global positioning system satellite, position information transmission means for sending the position information of said mobile terminal to said switchboard through said base stations (A GPS receiver/*item 234* and a conventional clock/*item 207* for time keeping requirements such as periodic inbound/outbound messages, both coupled to the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal processing system/*item 206* for means of determining the location of said subscriber/terminal through well-known techniques, subsequently sending such information pertaining location to the controller, and further indicating the location at which said subscriber/terminal is positioned; *col. 4, lines 27-32; col. 5, lines 36-42; Fig. 4, steps 402-204; Fig. 2, items 234 and 207*), and registration request transmission means for sending a registration request of the radio zones where said mobile terminal is present

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now to said switchboard when said mobile terminal moves among the radio zones of said base stations (RF signals transmitted by the portable subscriber unit to the base stations comprise responses that include unscheduled messages, such as registration requests; *col. 3, lines 7-12*), and sends the position information for a predetermined period when the registration request is sent by said registration request transmission means (A request typing program for programming the processing system to send an inbound request such as a RF signal transmitted by the portable subscriber unit to the base stations that comprise responses such as registration requests, wherein said request typing program resides within the portable subscriber unit/mobile terminal memory; *col. 4, lines 14-17; col. 6, lines 18-28; Fig. 5 steps 504 thru 510*).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1. Mamori et al.(EP 0 851,699 A2 / U.S. Pat. No. 6,263,190)
2. Mikko et al. (WO 99/16276)
3. Mintz et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,437,743)
4. Yamashita (U.S. Pat. No. 6,223,034)

7. Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to** (703) 872-9314 or **mailed to**:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

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Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Crystal Park II

2021 Crystal Drive

Arlington, VA 22202

Sixth Floor (Receptionist)

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication on earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Ismael Quiñones whose telephone number is (703) 305-8997, and fax phone number (703) 746-9818. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.


9. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Marsha D. Banks-Harold can be reached on (703) 305-4379. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9301.

10. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose number is (703) 305-4700 or call customer service at (703) 306-0377.

Ismael Quiñones

I.Q.

November 14, 2003


RAFAEL PEREZ-GUTIERREZ
PATENT EXAMINER